

Charity offers Edinburgh children a holiday in October

Edinburgh children in need of a holiday will go on a break to Ardvullin near Fort William next month courtesy of two charities.

Children's charity HopScotch is able to offer two dozen youngsters from Edinburgh a break away from issues like drug misuse and mental health issues thanks to funding from the Aberdeen Standard Investments' Charitable Foundation.



Claire Drummond, head of charitable giving at Aberdeen Charitable Foundation

They are heading for Ardvullin which is set in five acres overlooking Loch Linnhe to enjoy walking, cycling, horse-riding and day trips.

HopScotch manager Roberta McKay said: "Aberdeen Standard

Investments Charitable Foundation has been a generous supporter of our work and it's thanks to its support that we are able to offer 24 children from Edinburgh the chance to experience a HopScotch break this year. They are from organisations that support families affected by alcohol/drug misuse, domestic abuse, incarceration, mental health issues, crime and unemployment, so these young people really deserve a respite from their everyday lives, and the chance to have fun and enjoy themselves in a safe and nurturing environment. These young people have never or rarely been out of the city due to their family circumstances and this has impacted on their confidence and self-esteem. Many suffer due to parental health issues, parental drug alcohol misuse or domestic abuse so the opportunity to have a break where they can be children without the worries and responsibilities of daily life is of tremendous benefit to them.

"They are accompanied by carers who work closely with HopScotch's project worker throughout their respite break. Offering this memory-making holiday at Ardvullin gives them a real break from their challenging and stressful home environments."

Claire Drummond, head of charitable giving for Aberdeen Standard Investments Charitable Foundation said: "Edinburgh is regarded as one of the wealthiest cities in Scotland but it also has its share of social and economic challenges. Having supported the work of HopScotch before, we know the difference these recuperative breaks can make to young people who often experience chaotic home lives and we're pleased that 24 young people will be able to go on a much-needed break where they can enjoy some relaxation and fun in the Scottish Highlands."

The [Foundation](#) was established in 2012 to develop the group's charitable giving. It works with smaller charities worldwide to have a meaningful impact.